of the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra has been announced on 1st July, 2006. Which, *inter alia*, contains provision for *ex-gratia* assistance from the Prime Ministers National Relief Fund, debt relief to farmers, enhanced credit flow, interest waiver, assured irrigation facilities, seed replacement and cropping intensity, watershed development, horticulture development, micro irrigation, extension services, and subsidiary income opportunities.

(c) to (f) Government is finalizing to package in respect of the identified districts in the other three States including Andhra Pradesh, on the pattern of the package that has been announced for the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

Coverage of Bt. cotton

3035. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where Bt. cotton was grown during 2005-06 and per hectare net profit earned by growers from it;

(b) whether the area under Bt. cotton has increased recently; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (c) Bt. cotton was grown in the States of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu during 2005-06, Bt. cotton growing states have reported increase in yields ranging from 15-30% and reduced expenditure on plant protection. The area under Bt. cotton has increased as shown in the following table:

(Area in acres)

States	Kharif-2002	Kharif-2003	Kharif-2004	Kharif-2005
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	9,404	13,500	1,76,000	2,23,422
Madhya Pradesh	3,676	33,000	2,12,798	3,36,597
Gujarat	22,577	1,03,000	3,11,157	3,68,812
Maharashtra	30,699	54, 000	3,99,000	12,56,961
Karnataka	5,401	7,500	84,764	72,510
Tamil Nadu	925	19,000	29, 640	42,048
Punjab	-	-	-	1,74,024

1	2	3	4	5
Haryana	-	-	-	26, 606
Rajasthan	-	-	-	5,703
TOTAL	72,682	2,30,000	12, 13,359	25,06,683

Speeding of research services

3036. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of research services for farmers in the country;

(b) whether Government have undertaken any steps to speed up research services;

(c) if so the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Technologies related to crop production, crop protection, livestock production and management, and fishery are developed by the National Agricultural Research System (NARS), consisting of the research institutes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), and State Agricultural Universities. The technologies developed are disseminated by the main extension system operated by the State development department, In order to speed up research services to the farmers, the ICAR has created a network of 538 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) in the country, aiming at technology assessment refinement and demonstration of technology/products and its dissemination through training of farmers and extension personnel.

Plantation of jatropha

3037. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several private players have launched serious pilot projects for plantation of jatropha but at Government level there is still no sign of a comprehensive policy initiative to examine the